



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

Raised Bill No. 5129

LCO No. 904



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A "SAVE OUR LAKES" NUMBER PLATE TO
COMBAT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AND CYANOBACTERIA
BLOOMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) On and after January
2 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue Save Our
3 Lakes commemorative number plates of a design to enhance public
4 awareness of the state's effort to preserve and protect the state's lakes
5 and ponds from aquatic invasive species and cyanobacteria blooms.
6 Said design shall be determined by agreement between the
7 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and the
8 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. No use shall be made of such plates
9 except as official registration marker plates.
- 10 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish, by
11 regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54 of the general
12 statutes, a fee to be charged for Save Our Lakes commemorative
13 number plates in addition to the regular fee or fees prescribed for the
14 registration of a motor vehicle. The fee shall be for such number plates

15 with letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor
16 Vehicles. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish a higher
17 fee for: (1) Such number plates which contain letters in place of
18 numbers as authorized by section 14-49 of the general statutes, in
19 addition to the fee or fees prescribed for plates issued under said
20 section; and (2) such number plates which are low number plates, in
21 accordance with section 14-160 of the general statutes, in addition to
22 the fee or fees prescribed for plates issued under said section. The
23 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish, by regulations
24 adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general
25 statutes, an additional voluntary lakes and ponds preservation
26 donation, which shall be deposited in the Connecticut Lakes and
27 Ponds Preservation account established under section 2 of this act. All
28 fees established and collected pursuant to this section shall be
29 deposited in said account.

30 (c) Except as provided by subsection (d) of this section, no
31 additional renewal fee shall be charged for renewal of registration for
32 any motor vehicle bearing Save Our Lakes commemorative number
33 plates which contain letters in place of numbers, or low number plates,
34 in excess of the renewal fee for Save Our Lakes commemorative
35 number plates with letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner
36 of Motor Vehicles. No transfer fee shall be charged for transfer of an
37 existing registration to or from a registration with Save Our Lakes
38 commemorative number plates.

39 (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may request an additional
40 voluntary donation of fifteen dollars at the time of registration renewal
41 for any motor vehicle bearing a Save Our Lakes commemorative
42 number plate. Five dollars of the donation may be dedicated to the
43 administrative costs of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Ten dollars
44 of such donation shall be deposited in the Connecticut Lakes and
45 Ponds Preservation account established under section 2 of this act. The
46 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the
47 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall adopt
48 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the

49 general statutes, to establish standards and procedures for the
50 issuance, renewal and replacement of Save Our Lakes commemorative
51 number plates.

52 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) There is established an
53 account to be known as the "Connecticut Lakes and Ponds
54 Preservation account". The Connecticut Lakes and Ponds Preservation
55 account shall be a separate, nonlapsing account of the General Fund.
56 Any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account shall be
57 deposited in and credited to the Connecticut Lakes and Ponds
58 Preservation account. The account shall be available to the
59 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for (1)
60 restoration and rehabilitation of lakes and ponds in the state; (2)
61 programs of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
62 for the eradication of aquatic invasive species and cyanobacteria
63 blooms; (3) education and public outreach programs to enhance the
64 public's understanding of the need to protect and preserve the state's
65 lakes and ponds; (4) allocation of grants to state and municipal
66 agencies and not-for-profit organizations to conduct research and to
67 provide public education and public awareness to enhance
68 understanding and management of the natural resources of the state's
69 lakes and ponds; (5) provision of funds for all services that support the
70 protection and conservation of the state's lakes and ponds; and (6)
71 reimbursement of the Department of Motor Vehicles for the cost of
72 producing, issuing, renewing and replacing Save Our Lakes
73 commemorative number plates, including administrative expenses,
74 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

75 (b) The commissioner may receive private donations to the
76 Connecticut Lakes and Ponds Preservation account and any such
77 receipts shall be deposited in the account.

78 (c) The commissioner may provide for the reproduction and
79 marketing of the Save Our Lakes commemorative number plate image
80 for use on clothing, recreational equipment, posters, mementoes, or
81 other products or programs deemed by the commissioner to be

82 suitable as a means of supporting the Connecticut Lakes and Ponds
83 Preservation account. Any funds received by the commissioner from
84 such marketing shall be deposited in the Connecticut Lakes and Ponds
85 Preservation account.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To raise awareness and provide funding for efforts to fight aquatic invasive species and cyanobacteria blooms that threaten the state's lakes and ponds.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]